



STUDY GUIDE FOR

# Hansel & Gretel

by Kevin M Reese

## TO THE PARENT/TEACHER

This guide has been provided to help children benefit the most from experiencing a live theatrical event. The activities described herein are only suggestions. Please feel free to pick and choose the things that will most benefit your children in the time you have available. It is our hope that the performance is not only entertaining, but is a valuable educational experience as well.

You will find that some of the activities contained in this guide are geared for younger, some for older children-- but there is something for everyone. Please feel free to reproduce and distribute any of the enclosed pages and activities for your personal use.

© 1998, Kevin M Reese. All Rights Reserved.

[www.kmrscripts.com](http://www.kmrscripts.com)

# Theatre Etiquette

1. ***Audience Behavior.*** Attending a theatrical performance is a social event. Just as the way you act (and behave) in church or temple is different than the way you act on the playground, there is certain behavior that is appropriate in a live theatre. Discuss with your children the types of behavior that are appropriate when they are members of an audience.
2. ***Live Theatre.*** Explain that they need to act differently when they're watching a live play than if they're watching a movie in a theatre. Live actors can hear the audience's laughter and applause as well as their talking to their neighbor or rustling papers. And their responses-- appropriate or not-- really do affect the actors' performance. The end line is: How would they want to be treated if THEY were up on the stage.
3. ***Write to the actors.*** After you see the show, have your students write a letter to their favorite character or draw a picture of their favorite character or scene and send it to the theatre (see the next page for an email address, too!). The actors would LOVE to hear from your students. The actors may even have time to send a reply of some sort to your class. Because of the volume of mail they receive, replies to individual students may not be possible-- but they'd still love to hear from you! Their address:
4. ***Audience Participation.*** Normally, audience members should never talk during the play--and especially not talk directly to the actors (it distracts other audience member and may even make the actors forget their lines). But the plays by KMR Scripts are unique in that we offer the audience special opportunities to participate in the production. They will probably not be asked to come onstage, but there are various times throughout the production where the actors will ask them questions or ask them to use their imaginations and pretend they are animals, trees, or people. At those times we encourage the audience to participate and/or answer them wholeheartedly (but not in an overly loud yell). Over the years, this has become one of the hallmarks of KMR Scripts productions.

# Activities & Discussion

## *Hansel & Gretel*

1. **STORY CIRCLE.** Have the children make up their own version of *Hansel & Gretel*. Have them sit in a circle. Pick one child to begin the story and go clock-wise around the circle, allowing everyone a chance to add to the story. You may have to limit each child's contribution to one story event (some children are avid storytellers!).
2. **REVIEW.** Have the students write a review of the play. How was this play different than other versions of the story? What were their favorite parts? Their least favorite? Did anything happen that they didn't understand or seemed confusing? Did they like the music or did it "get in the way of the story?" What did they think of the costumes and scenery? Help them understand that their opinions are most certainly valid and will most likely differ from that of others (and that is OK). Being able to objectively discuss their opinions and others' is a skill that will benefit them the rest of their lives.
3. **VISIT THE INTERNET.** If you have a computer at home or school and have access to the Internet, you can look at a special web site that is just for you! **Kevin M Reese**, the man who adapted the play *Hansel & Gretel*, works for a company called **KMR Scripts**. They have a web site and there is a special area for kids. There are lots of fun (and safe!) things to do and you can even send the playwright and the ACTORS a letter. You can find it by typing:

[www.kmrscripts.com](http://www.kmrscripts.com)

- Then click on the words; "Hey, Kids!" and it will take you to the Kids' area. You'll be surfing! (Lot's of helpful info for teachers in the "Classroom Helps" section!)
4. **GERMANY.** The story was set in Germany. Have the students find Germany on an atlas or globe. Ask the students how Hansel & Gretel's life might be different from theirs. How their lives might be similar. Explain that even though the people of Germany speak a different language and have different customs, we are a lot alike in many ways.
  5. **GINGERBREAD HOUSE.** Make your own gingerbread house! Make the shell of a house out of gingerbread or graham crackers (or, a clean cardboard box, such as a shoe box ) and attach it to the center of a cookie sheet. Take more graham crackers (or another piece of cardboard folded in the middle) making a roof, and attach it to the house. Cover the whole thing with frosting (canned cake icing is fine) and let the students select some candy, cookies, gumdrops, jelly beans, etc., and have them stick the items onto the icing. Use the gingerbread house as a treat or let the students choose a piece of candy from it as a reward for good work or good behavior. Be sure to cover it tightly at night to keep it fresh.

# Color Page